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"DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE"

CPF 0037-14-CID361-9H-Google+*

20 May 2015

Configuring Google+ for a More Secure Social Networking Experience

Multipurpose Social Networking

Google+ (Google Plus), a relative latecomer to the social networking scene, has not achieved the popularity or market penetration of some other social networking sites. Google+, however, is not irrelevant in the social networking space. It is a successful enterprise that links information from disparate sources. Never underestimate Google's ability to make connections.

Think of Google+ as a combination of Facebook (friends, acquaintances, groups, etc.) and Twitter (short posts, hash tags, followers, etc.) with some professional networking like LinkedIn.

Google+ connects content and users from across all of its product lines, including: Gmail, YouTube, Blogger.com, Google Maps, Google Translate, Google Flights, Google Play, Google News, Google Books, Google Scholar, Google Calendar, Waze and many, many more. One of the reasons Google so effectively makes connections is it uses a single unified profile.

***Think of Google+ as a small
part of a much larger suite
of Google products
interconnecting the threads
of your life.***

Therefore, profile settings selected in one Google product could change settings in other Google products you use. In some situations, restricting access to your Google+ personal profile could cause unexpected and unanticipated restrictions to information on other Google sites. This is unlikely to happen often, but it is something to be aware of.

As mentioned, Google is very good at connecting data! Location information is no different. ALWAYS assume that Google knows where you are! This might be just a general notion of geographic location, say a city or region, or it could be as specific as the café at which you are enjoying your cappuccino. Location specificity increases dramatically when accessing Google sites from mobile devices.

If you are going to use Google+, a critical requirement (this is not simply a setting) is that you closely monitor the circles you establish and the circles to which you assign your friends. Circles are how you categorize your Google+ friends. More on circles and extended circles

* This Google+ configuration guide is an addendum to CID Crime Prevention Flyer [CPF-0037-14-CID361-9H](#)

later in this document where you will see how settings that affect one circle can affect others as well.

Unlike most user agreements, Google's **Policies & Principles** is not page after endless page of incomprehensible legalese. They are written in plain and understandable English. If you read nothing else, please read [Google+ Policies and Principles](#) and [Google Privacy Policy](#).

To Friend or Not to Friend...

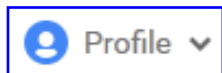
That is the question. And the decision should not be taken lightly. When you add someone to your circles (friending), or when someone adds you to one of their circles, you should consider the implications. People will judge you by the company you keep. You should be as careful and thoughtful about developing social networking relationships as you are about developing other relationships.

Like other popular social networking sites (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Tumblr and most others), all that is required to open a Google account is a valid email address. And, Google will provide one free-of-charge with only minimal effort dedicated to verifying the identification of the individual.

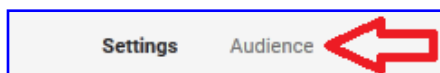
Therefore, before accepting any request to be added to someone's circles and before adding anyone to your circles, ask yourself, if you truly know the other individual.

Accessing Settings

Google+ Settings are accessed from the **Profile** drop-down menu located at the upper left side of the Google+ desktop. Depending upon the Google+ view, it could be under the **Home** drop-down menu, a red **g+** symbol or an abbreviated **Profile** button. Hover your mouse over the visible symbol and then click the **Settings Gear** ⚙ at the bottom of the menu.



Once in the **Settings** area, you will notice along the top of the desktop two choices, **Settings** and **Audience**. If **Settings** is not underlined, click **Settings**.

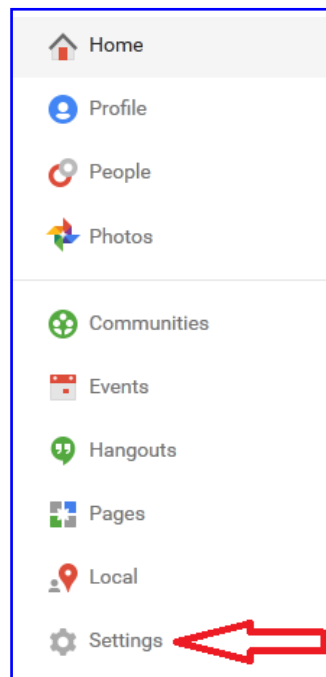


Controlling Access to Your Content

Hidden within Google+ settings is a useful setting that can reduce (not eliminate) the likelihood of Google+ members in countries hostile to the interests of U.S. Army personnel accessing your profile. In the **audience** tab of **settings** is a configuration parameter that allows you to block access to your Google+ content from specific countries.

But, there are two huge caveats that go with this setting:

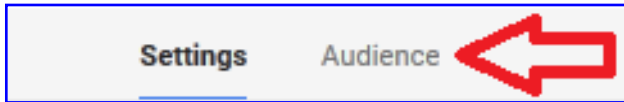
1. There is no absolutely certain way of knowing the origin of traffic on the Internet. It is very easy for even a moderately knowledgeable user, intent on hiding his or her geographic location, to spoof the country of origin. Cyber criminals and some adversaries do it as a matter of course. Spoofed traffic would pass unhindered through this setting.
2. Some of your posted information will still be visible. Content that will be visible includes: your profile name, profile photo, cover photo, photos you have added, comments you have made and your YouTube content unless you have restricted access there as well. Things that will not be visible are your posts (these are not the



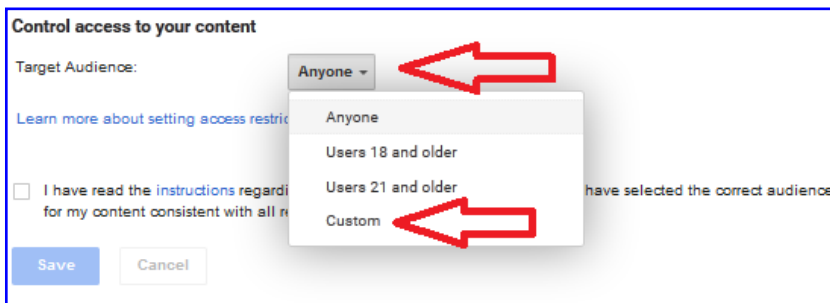
same as comments you have made on another's posts) and "certain information in the 'About' section of your profile." ([Google's words](#))

From the **Home** menu:

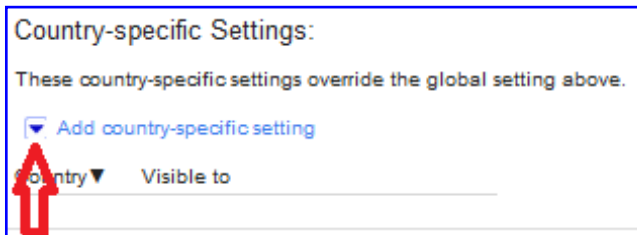
1. Click the **settings gear**. 



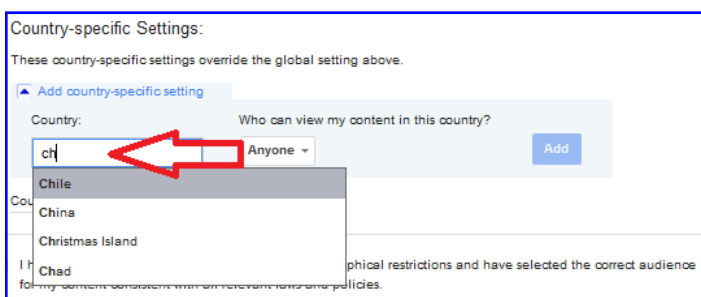
2. Along the top ribbon, click **Audience** which opens to the **control access to your content** menu.



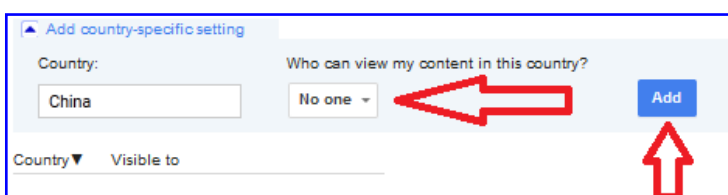
3. Click the **down arrow** in the drop-down box next to **Target Audience**.
4. Click **custom**.



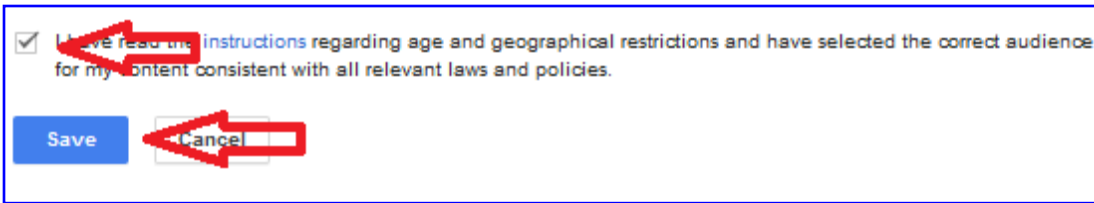
5. Click the down arrow next to the **add country-specific setting** drop-down box.



6. The **country-specific settings** box will expand. Click in the **country** box and start typing the country name. As you type, Google+ will display countries that match what you type as you type it. When you see the country you want to restrict access from, click on it.

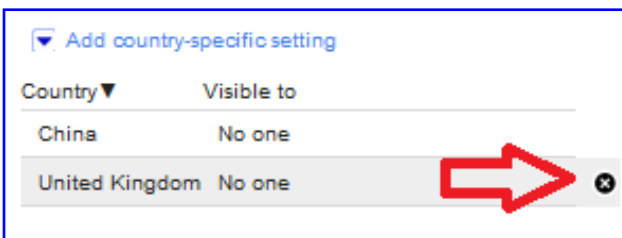


7. Change the **who can view my content in this country** to **no one**.
8. Click **Add**. Check that the correct country is listed and **no one** has been recorded. (Blocking traffic from multiple countries is permitted.)



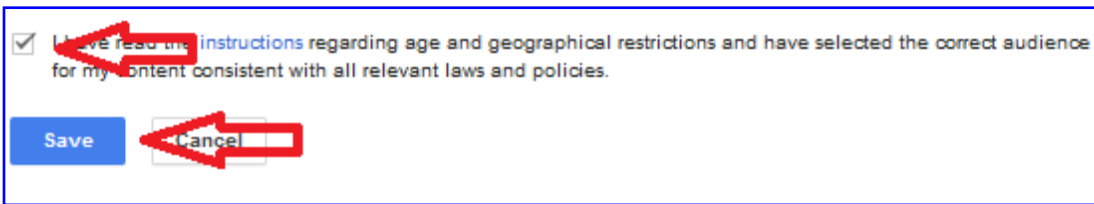
9. Near the bottom of the **control access to your content** menu, click the check box indicating you have read and understand the instructions. (You should actually read the instructions.)
10. When you have completed your selections, click **save**.

If you inadvertently block a country or later you decide to unblock a country, the process is easy. From the **control access to your content** menu:



Country	Visible to
China	No one
United Kingdom	No one

1. Hover you mouse over the country you no longer want to restrict access from and a small **x** will appear to the right.
2. Click the **x** to the right of the country from which you want to allow access.



3. When you have completed your selections, click the **check box** indicating you have read and understand the instructions.
4. Click **save**.

Circles and Circles

Throughout this document you will see references to “circles” and “**circles**”. They are not the same. They are not interchangeable and the difference is more than simply one is boldface and the other is not!

Circles are how you organize or categorize your friends while **circles** (boldface) are Google+ settings. Circles, can be either “your” circles or “extended circles” and the same boldface convention applies within this flyer, boldface pertains to the circles setting – regular is a means to organize friends.

While on the topic of your circles, differentiation of “your” circles and “extended” circles is in order.

Whereas, your circles are where you organize your friends, extended circles are the circles where the people in your circles organize their friends. The important distinction here is that you have total visibility into the members of your circles but you may not have the same visibility into your extended circles.

While you might be very diligent about who you invite into your circles, you have no control over (and probably insufficient time to research) who is in these extended circles. For instance, enabling extended circles for your family circles could inadvertently expose personal information to unintended recipients.

When you post images of the family's European vacation, you may not know that the shady friend from high school, who you invited into your circles because you did not want to hurt any feelings, is also a member of the Burglars Co-op circle and now, since you have enabled **extended circles**, thousands of recovering burglars know you are out of the country and your home is unoccupied.

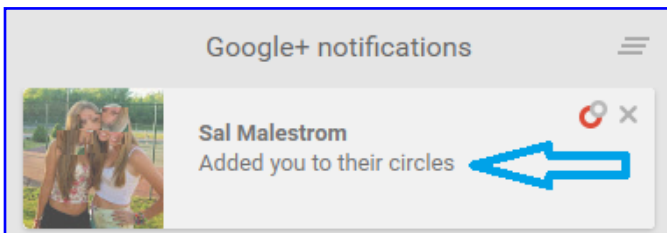
Therefore, assume that **extended circles** is the equivalent of **public**.

Being Added to Someone's Circles

When someone adds you their circle, you will see a notification indicator in the notifications bell of your Google+ profile. Depending upon your notification settings, you might also receive an email.

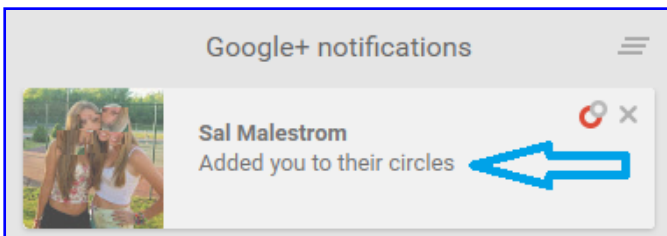


1. In the upper right corner of your profile page, click on the **message bell**.
2. View the Google+ notifications.

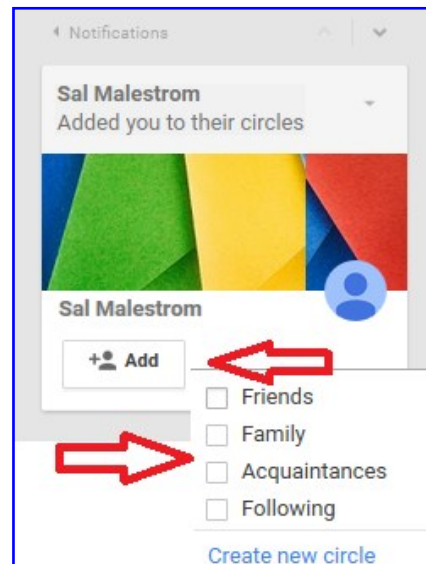
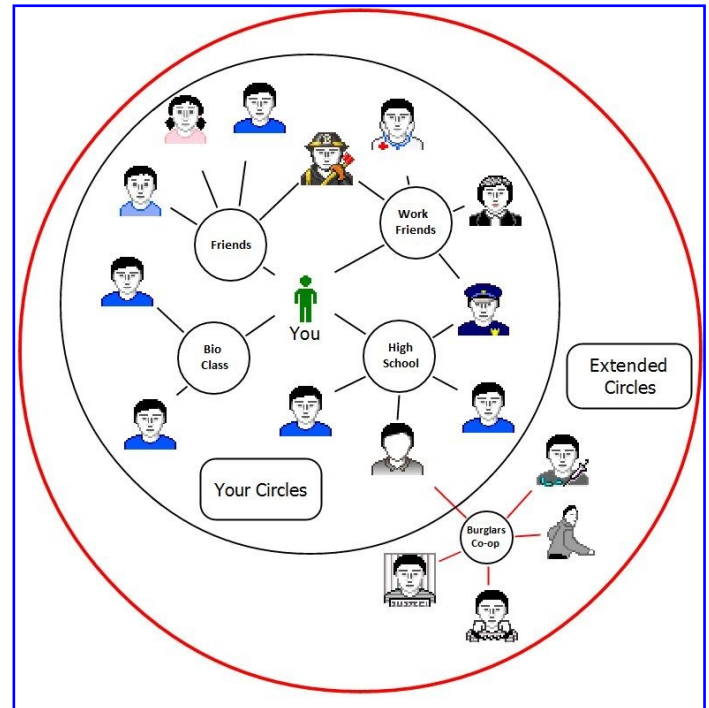


3. Notice the **Added you to their circles** under the name of the Google+ member that added you.
4. If you do not want to add this person to your circle, simply ignore the notification.

If this is someone you know and want to add to your circles:



1. Click on the notification and the view will change.



2. Hover your mouse over the **Add** button.
3. Click the check box opposite the circle or circles you want this person to be a member of or create a new circle.
4. The addition is complete the moment you click the check box.
5. Use caution when choosing circles. Inadvertently adding someone to an incorrect circle, and failing to correct your mistake, could be embarrassing.

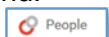
Once someone has added you to their circles, regardless of your decision to add them to your circles, you will continue to be in their circles. Not adding them to your circles does not remove you from their circles. However, the other person will not have elevated access to your information by them simply putting you in their circles. They will not have access to anything other than what you have posted for **public** access. The only way you can remove yourself from their circles is to **block** that user. See the **Blocking a Google+ Member** section below for more details on how to block someone.

Blocking a Google+ Member

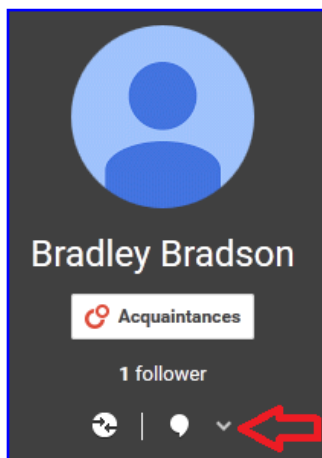
You might choose to block a Google+ member for many reasons. Perhaps repeated and unwanted invitations to join their circle; perhaps abusive language; perhaps their views are just too far away from yours. Whatever the reason, blocking a Google+ member is pretty straightforward. The person you block will not know of the blocking except that he or she will no longer be able to access your profile or contact you directly.

From the **Home** menu:

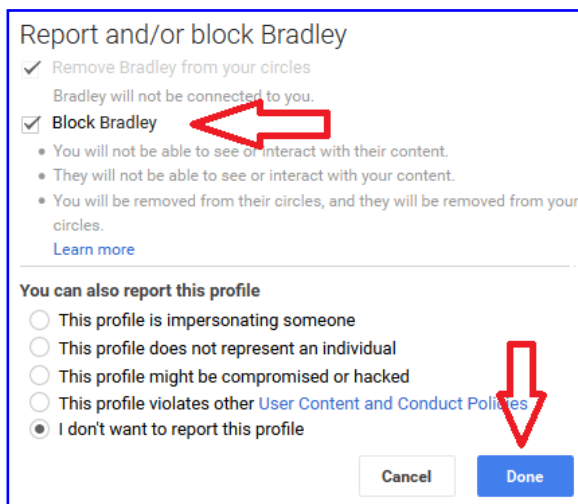
1. Click **People**.



2. Along the top of the **people** page, click **have you in circles**.



3. Click on the profile of the person you want to block.
4. When their profile page opens, click on the **down caret**.



5. Click **Report / block**.
6. Click **Block**.
7. Click **Done**.

By default, **I don't want to report this profile** is selected. Normally this will be sufficient; however, other choices are available:

- **This profile is impersonating someone**
- **This profile does not represent an individual**
- **This profile might be compromised or hacked**
- **This profile violates other User Content and Conduct Policies**

If you believe any of the available choices accurately characterize your reason for blocking an individual, then select one of them.

Once blocked, you will both be removed from the other's circles; neither will be able to see the other's posts or see comments either has made on other people's posts; and, neither will be able to communicate with the other through Google+. It is important to understand that blocking someone does not eliminate them from your online life. They can still communicate with you using your Gmail account and in posts on community sites to which you both belong.

Location Settings

Letting your Google+ friends know your physical location is touted as a means to enhance your social networking experience. When you see a friend in the same geographic area as you, you can reach out to them and perhaps enjoy some face-to-face social interaction. This capability has some merit and can be used by families to stay in touch with each other, and for parents to know where their children are (if the children are using Google+ and a smart phone, and have location settings enabled) as they go through their hectic days.

There is a downside -- misconfigured location settings could reveal to the universe of Google+ users your location. Recall the statement made earlier in this document:

ALWAYS assume that Google knows where you are! This might be just a general notion of geographic location or it could be as specific as the café at which you are enjoying your cappuccino. Location specificity is dramatically more accurate when accessing Google sites from mobile devices.

Disabling **location sharing** is recommended. However, if you choose to enable **location sharing**, then you should, to the maximum extent possible, restrict location information to as few people as possible. If you have diligently categorized friends into appropriate circles, this should be easy. If you have not, or have doubts, consider either turning **location settings** off or restricting the information to specific people.

Before enabling **location sharing**, you must understand the difference between **who can see my pinpoint location** and **who can see your city location**; the former is very (sometimes very, very) specific and the latter more general. Google very effectively collects and synthesizes a lot of information from different sources, and that includes location data. **Pinpoint location** could do just that—pinpoint your location to a specific address—in near real time. **City location** will be non-specific. However, bear in mind, generalized city location coupled with content of posts, particularly images, you might make, could form a revealing mosaic of your activities and location.

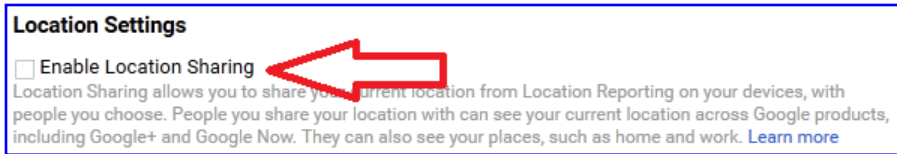
Google allows you to tailor the settings for both choices. The choices are: **extended circles**, **public**, **your circles**, **only you** and **custom**. **Extended circles** and **public** expose your location to persons unknown. Do not choose **extended circles** or **public** unless you are confident you understand the risks and ramifications of doing so!

Choosing **your circles** also presents risks and might be a bad choice. **Your circles** includes **all** of your circles – personal, professional, school, soccer team and whatever other circles you might have created. Not only does it include all of your circles today, it will include any future circles you might create. Like the not for real “Burglars Co-op” because you are just plain curious.

If you feel compelled to use **location sharing**, the recommended choice is **custom** which allows for detailed control. you can select circles and people by name. The steps to set, and recommendations for, **who can see my pinpoint location** and **who can see your city location** are identical.

To disable **Location Sharing**, from the **Home** menu:

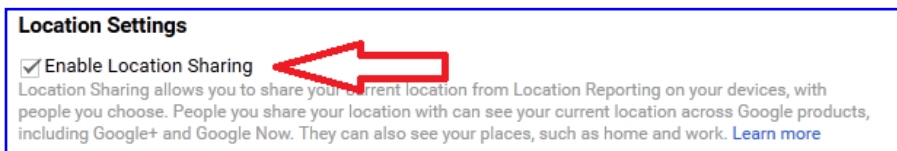
1. Click the **settings** gear. ⚙



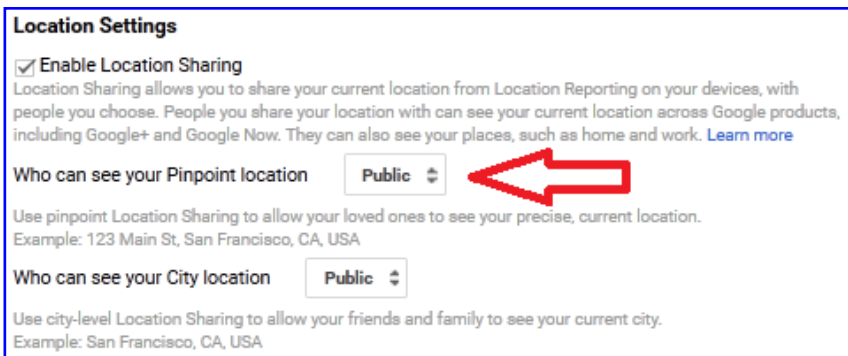
2. Verify that the check box to the right of **Enable Location Sharing** is unchecked (disabled). If it is not, click the check box until the check mark disappears.

To enable **Location Sharing** and set **Who can see your pinpoint location**, from the **Home** menu:

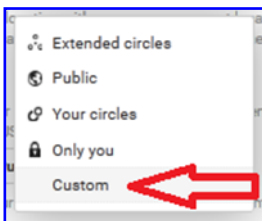
1. Click the **settings** gear. ⚙





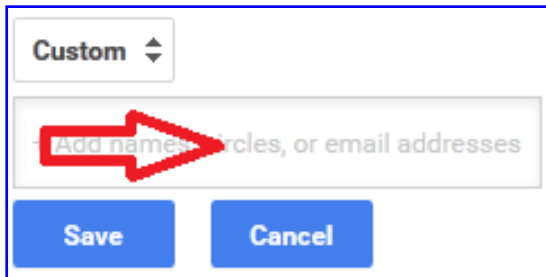
2. Click the box opposite **location settings**. When there is a check in the box, **location sharing** is enabled. When **location sharing** is enabled, the **location settings** box expands and shows two new settings.



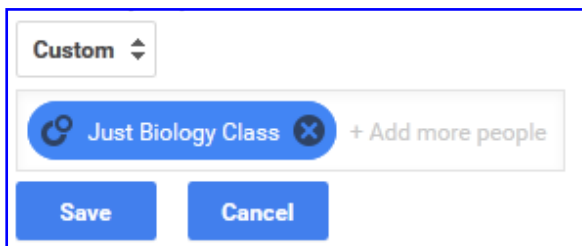
3. Click the arrows to the right of **Who can see your Pinpoint location**.



4. Click **Custom**.
5. If  is visible, click  to remove **public** locations sharing.



6. Click in the data box where you see **Add names, circles, or email addresses**.

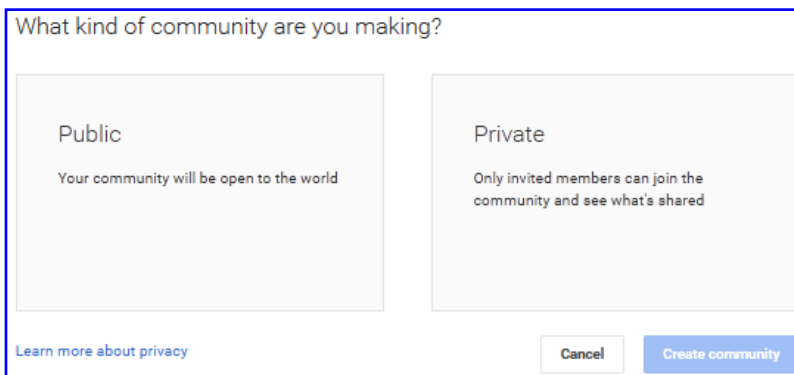


7. Scroll down the list and you will see your created circles that you can choose from. As an alternative, you can type the name or email of any of your Google+ friends. If you enter the email of someone not in your circles, Google+ will ask you if you want to send them an invitation to join. That is your choice.
8. When you have made your selections, if the drop-down box persists, click anywhere in the Google+ site that is not a link.
9. Click **save**.

Joining Communities and Creating Communities

Communities are like circles except that, instead of circles of friends, you have circles of people with common interests. Perhaps you have heard the term “community of interest” used elsewhere. If you have, then the concept of a Google+ community will not be new.

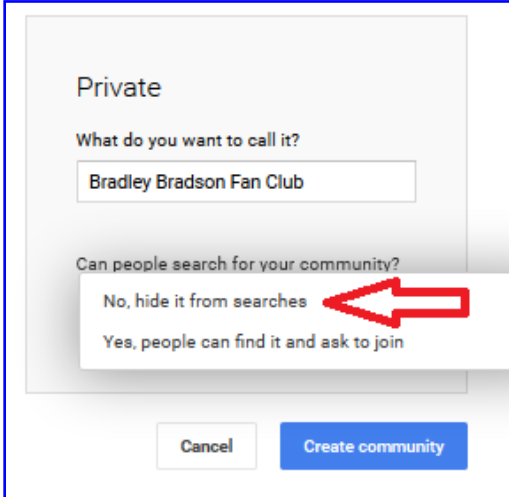
Public communities are just that – public. Anyone with Internet access can read the content of the community and see its membership roster. You cannot hide your activity on a public community. Do not be fooled into thinking a community is private just because someone must approve your membership request; some public communities require that a moderator approve your request to join.



Private communities are, as the name implies, private. Depending upon configuration settings chosen by the community owner or moderators, the community may or may not show up in searches. Even if it does, the only thing a non-member can see is that the community exists. They cannot see any posts, photos or the member list. If the community is configured so that it is invisible to search engines, you will only know it exists if the owner or moderator invites you. A private Google+ community would be an excellent way to keep in touch with family members, your bowling team or your *Zombies in Popular Media* classmates.

If you create a community, you will be asked if you want the community to be public or private. If you choose private, you will also be asked if you want other Google+ users to be able to locate the community in searches. The recommended setting is **No, hide it from searches**. Regardless of a private community's availability in searches, anyone's attempt to join will have to be approved by a community administrator.

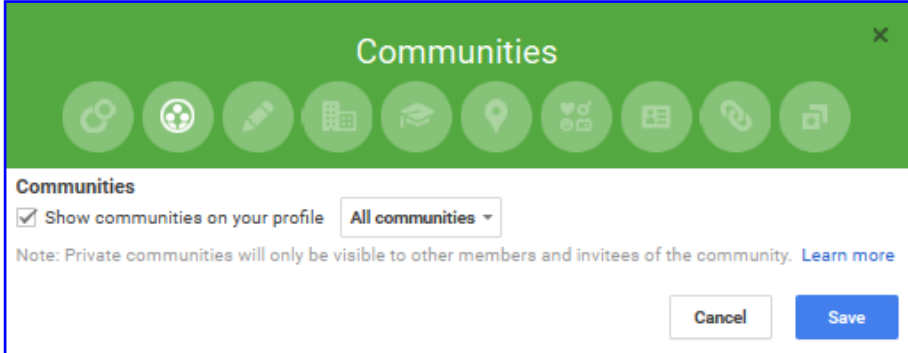
The safety benefits of a private community, unavailable to search engines, is obvious. Outsiders will not be able to find your community. The tradeoff is that people you want to bring inside that community must be invited.



Google+ Communities

The Google+ communities you join could say a lot about you, your interests, where you attended school and what you studied, professional associations, employer and employment responsibilities and perhaps more. All of these are categories of information that can be used for social engineering and identity theft. Bear in mind, while you may be an uber-aware Internet user whose practices immunize you against social engineering, those with whom you associate may not be so. Information about you and other associates could be mosaicked into a larger picture and that information then used to engineer someone else.

Google+ allows you to configure the visibility of your communities. There are three settings: **show all communities on your profile**; **don't show any communities on your profile**; and; **individually select communities to be displayed on your profile**.



With one exception (private communities), the Google+ default setting is that all communities of which you are a member be visible on your profile. If you leave the default setting as is, whenever you add new communities you will have to remember that the community will be made public and to then assess the risks. The preferred setting is to either disable this feature entirely or enable it and select only the communities you want the world to know you are a member of.

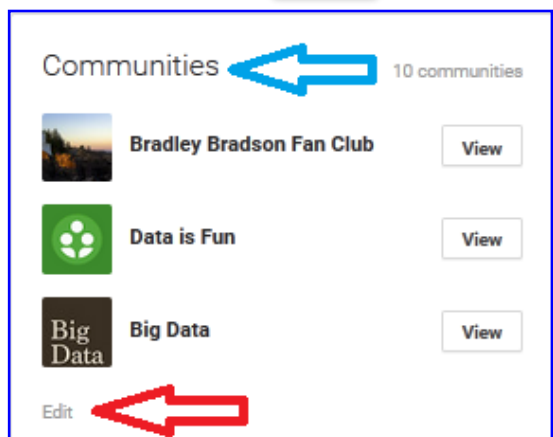
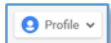
The security benefit of disabling the feature is straightforward: thereafter, you will not need to consider the ramifications of adding new communities. Only other members of the same communities will know you are a member.

If you join communities that you absolutely want the world to know you are a member of, then individually selecting the communities you want to make public is a good compromise. After your initial selections, newly joined communities do not automatically appear on your profile. You must consciously decide to make the newly joined community public.

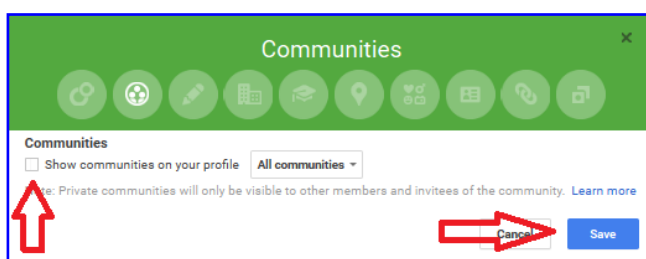
Private communities are the exception. A private community, one that the creator has chosen to restrict membership to only those approved by a community administrator, do not appear on your public profile except to other members of the same private community. Private communities will not appear in your profile even if **show communities on your profile** is fully enabled.

To entirely disable **show communities on your profile**, from the **Home** menu:

1. Click **profile**.



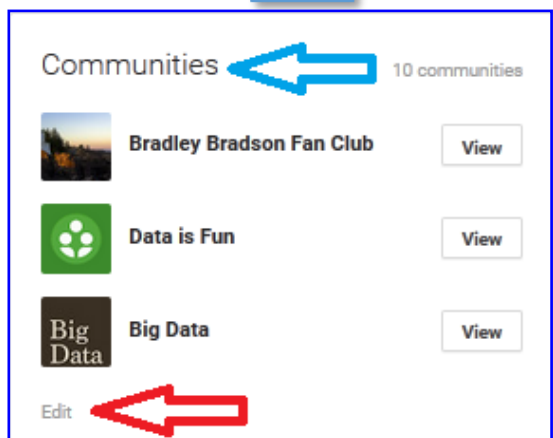
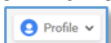
2. Scroll down your profile page and until you reach the **communities** section. This is usually in the lower right side of your profile.
3. Click **edit**.



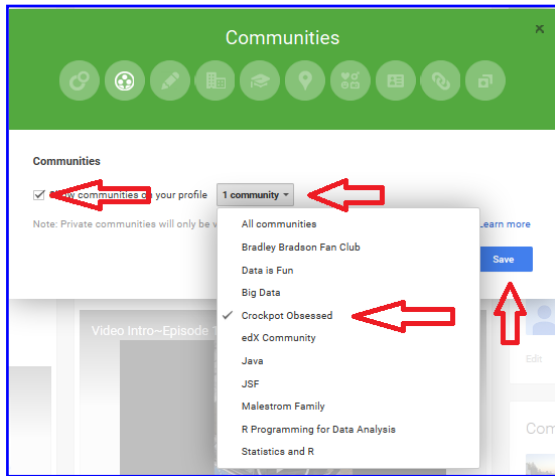
4. If the check box opposite **show communities on your profile** is checked (enabled), click to disable.
5. If the check box opposite **show communities on your profile** is not checked, do nothing.
6. Click **save**.

To enable **show communities on your profile** and select individual communities, from the **Home** menu:

1. Click **profile**.



2. Scroll down your profile and locate the **communities** section. This is usually in the lower left side.
3. Click **edit**.



4. If the check box opposite **show communities on your profile** is unchecked (disabled), click to enable it.
5. Click the down arrow by **communities**.
6. You must select at least one community. If you do not, **all communities** will become your setting.
7. Click **Save**.

Photos and Videos

Photos and videos can present substantial security risks. They clearly illustrate that which is important enough to you that you document it: places you go, people you meet, things you do (good and bad, be cautious), your likes and dislikes and more. While individual images might not contain very much information, a collection of images taken as a whole is a different situation.

The best first line of defense is adherence to the “never post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the morning news” mantra. The second line of defense, a corollary, is “the Internet does not forget.” Once you post something on the Internet assume that it is there, somewhere, forever and it will return to haunt you at the least opportune moment.

Photos and videos depict you and your family with an intimacy that words cannot match. The settings you choose for photos and videos can be very revealing. People who would do you harm can use image collections to build a fairly detailed mosaic of your life. That seemingly innocuous image of your kindergartner’s school play reveals that you have a kindergartner and what that kindergartner looks like. But in the series of school play images there is also the school mascot and an image of the front of the school. In another series of images is a picture of you standing by the marquee of the on-post theatre.

With just minimal effort, an Internet search for the school mascot and military installation theatre will likely identify the school, or perhaps several schools in the area. Then, using Internet street view or satellite imagery tools, the specific school can most likely be identified. All of this without leaving the comfort of the home (or office).

Anytime you post content to the Internet, be cautious! Google+ has configuration settings to help you. Rather than touching upon just the few settings of import, all are covered and a brief description included because controlling images and videos is so important.

From the **Home** menu:

1. Click the **settings gear**. ⚙

Show Geo Location...

Adding location data to any social media posting is a bad idea. Configuring any social networking experience to automatically add your location is a really bad idea. Turn this feature **off**. If, after careful consideration, you decide you must include location information in a post, doing so will be your conscious decision.

1. Uncheck the check box opposite **show geo location**....

Photos and Videos

- ☒ **Show geo location** by default on newly shared albums. You can change the setting per album. [Learn more](#)
- ☒ Allow viewers to download my photos and videos.
- ☒ Don't feature my publicly-shared Google+ photos as background images on Google products & services. [Learn more](#)
- ☒ Find my face in photos and videos and prompt people I know to tag me. [Learn more](#)
- ☒ Upload my photos at full size.

Storage used: 0 GB (0%) of 15 GB.
[Buy more storage](#)
Turning on full size uploads will slow down your uploads.

Google Drive

- ☒ Show Drive photos and videos in your photo library [Learn more](#)

Auto Enhance
Automatically enhance new photos and videos. [Learn more](#)
☐ Off ☒ Normal ☐ High
It's easy to revert any photo that's been enhanced

Auto Awesome

- ☒ Create awesome new images, movies and stories from your photos and videos. [Learn more](#)

Allow Viewers to Download...

Internet searches reveal instances where images posted to social media have been used without the owner's consent for both commercial and other purposes. A seemingly innocent picture from a beach vacation could, to someone with certain proclivities, be used for unintended, unpleasant and unseemly purposes.

Controlling who has your images is important. After all, they are your work and you should control who has them and what they do with them.

1. Uncheck the check box opposite **allow viewers to download**...

Photos and Videos

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Even with this setting, be cautious about what you post. Preventing the download of images does not prevent someone from capturing screen images or "scraping" content. It just makes it more difficult.

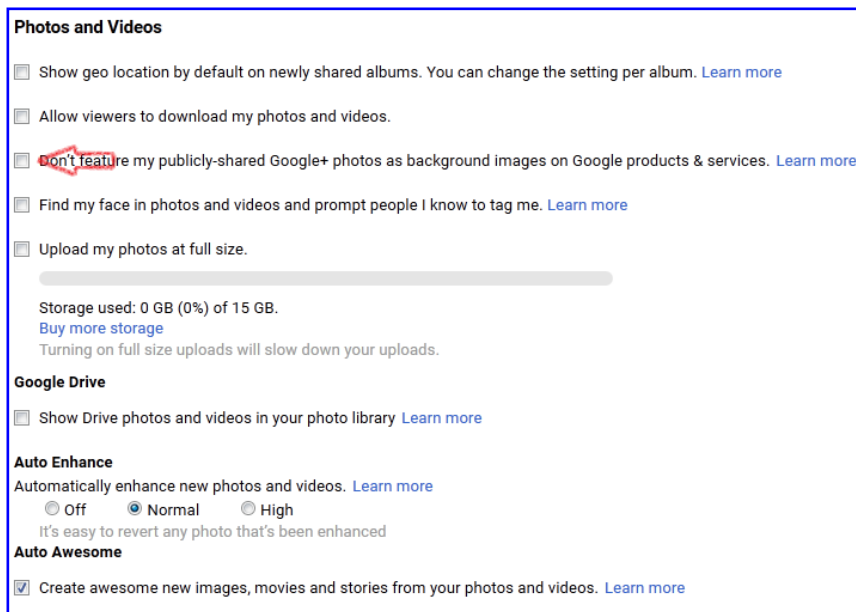
Don't feature my publicly-shared...

Be sure to read **Learn more** about this setting. You may or may not want to allow Google to use your publicly-shared images. Google says in its help statements that it will not use images that include people or text (e.g., street addresses and business names that might identify your location) and will notify you if one of your publicly available images is used. Moreover, featuring your content only applies to images you have made publicly available. If you have images you want to keep control over, do not share them publicly.

If you are uncertain about this setting, or do not feel you can trust Google to abide by (unintentionally or otherwise) their promise to exclude images with identifying content, err on the side of safety and disable this.

From the **Home** menu:

1. Uncheck the check box opposite **Don't feature my publicly...**



Photos and Videos

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- ☐ **Don't feature my publicly-shared Google+ photos as background images on Google products & services.** [Learn more](#)
- ☐ Find my face in photos and videos and prompt people I know to tag me. [Learn more](#)
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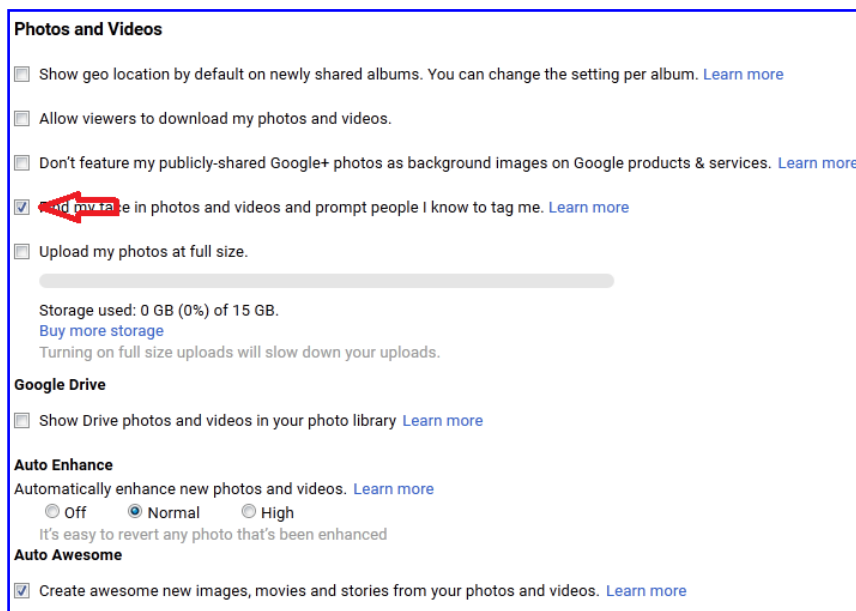
Find my face in photos and videos...

This is another setting of personal choice. You may or may not want to allow Google to automatically tag you in images and videos especially if you have configured **notifications** according to guidance elsewhere in this document. If you have chosen to be notified whenever you are tagged in an image then enabling this feature and monitoring it carefully might be a good defensive measure. Images that include your face, that you did not post, probably warrant review.

As an interesting aside, the Internet features several Internet search sites for images. Drag and drop a source image and within seconds the search engine returns Internet locations where that same image is posted. Now, consider the ramifications of facial recognition – a fairly mature technology. Within the next few years, it is likely that Internet facial recognition searches will be available. Drag and drop an image with identifiable faces and within seconds locate other, but entirely different, images with the same faces. Hmmm.....

From the **Home** menu:

1. Check **Find my face in photos...**



Photos and Videos

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- ☒ **Find my face in photos and videos and prompt people I know to tag me.** [Learn more](#)
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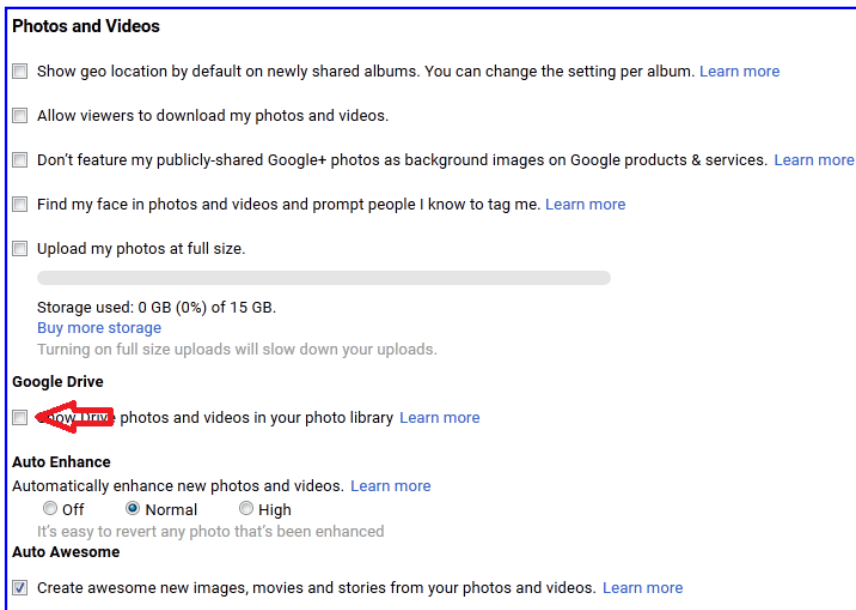
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Google Drive – Share drive photos...

Regardless of the reasons you use Google Drive (or even if you do not) consider turning this feature off (unchecked). Better to make conscious decisions to post only the images and videos you want to share than to risk unexpectedly publishing something you intended to remain private.

From the **Home** menu:

1. Uncheck **Allow drive photos...**

Auto Enhance and Auto Awesome

No harm, no foul here. Click **learn more** to better understand what happens but there does not seem to be a downside. Besides, you can always revert back to the unenhanced and un-awsomed images.

Hashtags

Many websites use hashtags to descriptively categorize topics making it easier for people to locate conversations of interest. Hashtags, words or symbols preceded by an octothorpe (the # symbol, commonly, but incorrectly, called the pound sign) are similar to hyperlinks and link to content related to the hashtag.

Google+ allows you to add hashtags to your own conversations and Google+ may also add hashtags to your posts based upon content. You can delete any hashtag, including those that Google places for you.

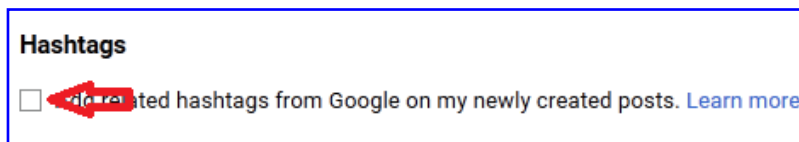
If you have controlled your circles and have not made your posts available to extended circles, using hashtags can be an effective means to communicate with your friends. If you have not closely monitored your circle memberships or have chosen to allow your extended circles to view your content, you should at least be very cautious about the hashtags you use so as to avoid calling attention to you or your background.

Regardless of your choice to use hashtags or not, allowing Google+ to automatically and autonomously add hashtags based upon content is not recommended. Given Google's substantial ability to associate and link information, there is a possibility (neigh, likelihood) that automatic hashtags could correlate information from multiple posts, and maybe even different sources, to inadvertently create hashtags that reveal more about you than you might like.

Fortunately, Google+ includes a configuration setting that allows you to turn off automatic hashtags.

To disable automatic Google+ hashtags, from the **Home** menu:

1. Click the **settings gear**.
2. Uncheck **Add related hashtags from Google...**



Receiving Notifications

Receiving notifications of Google+ activity that involves or mentions you is an excellent, proactive idea!

Within the **receive notifications** area, there are several categories of notifications (posts, circles, photos, etc.) and multiple configuration choices within each category. The importance of any setting is affected by how well you have managed your circles.

If you have restricted access to your posts and profile to the maximum extent possible and managed your circle memberships, then these settings are of lesser importance. However, if this is not the case, or if you just want an extra layer of safety, then receiving notifications is important.

One very good reason to receive notifications and to monitor posts is that, even with your profile correctly configured, when someone inside your circles mentions someone outside your circles, that outsider will be permitted access to all of the posts in that thread. For instance, if you are not monitoring posts and several weeks into what you believe to be a private family discussion, a family member in your family circle mentions someone outside your family circle, then that outsider will have access to that entire thread. The outcome could be problematic.

Therefore, to maximize the safety of your Google+ experience and to ensure you are aware of activity that might directly reflect on you, enabling the following recommendations is recommended:

- **Mentions you in a post**
- **Comments on a post you created**
- **Comments on a post after you commented on it**
- **Shares or comments on your content across the web**
- **Adds you to a circle**
- **Tags you in a photo**
- **Tags one of your photos**
- **Comments on a photo you're tagged in**
- **Starts a new hangout with you**
- **Shares something with a community you get notifications from.**

The remainder of the settings are more or less personal choices rather than personal safety.

Get notified by email or phone when someone...	Email	Phone
Posts		
Mentions you in a post	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shares a post with you directly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shares a post and they're in a circle you subscribe to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments on a post you created	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments on a post after you comment on it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shares or comments on your content across the web (for example, your YouTube videos or your blog)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Circles		
Adds you to a circle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggests new people to add to your circles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joins Google+ and they're in My Contacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos		
Tags you in a photo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags one of your photos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggests a profile photo for you	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments on a photo you're tagged in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hangouts		
Invites you to a video call	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Starts a new Hangout with you	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events		
Invites you to an event or updates an event you're invited to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sends a reminder about an event you're invited to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Takes action on an event you created	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications about Google+ Pages		
Invites you to manage Google+ pages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communities		
Invites you to a Google+ community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shares something with a community you get notifications from	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Return to [Social Networking Safety Tips](#)



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